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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johansen, *et al.* Examiner: M. Brown
Serial No.: 09/086,508 Art Unit: 3764
Filing Date: May 28, 1998 Attorney Docket: 0019696-0089
Title: BONE ANCHOR AND DEPLOYMENT DEVICE THEREFOR

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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This **Response to Office Action** is filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 22, 1999, rejecting claims 1-24 and allowing claims 25-28. The cited references are U.S. Patent Nos. 4,012,984 (Matuschek) and 5,380,334 (Torrie). The following amendments and remarks remove all grounds for rejection of the application, thereby placing it in condition for allowance.

Amendment

Please cancel claims 7-9 and 22-24 without prejudice.

Remarks

The claimed invention

The present invention comprises a bone anchor and a method of deploying the anchor. Independent claims 1 and 10 are directed to a bone anchor which comprises a "floating" washer which holds tissue securely against the bone when the anchor is deployed. Independent claim 25 (allowed) is directed to methods of deploying a bone anchor into a bone.